

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

4 September 1952

US OFFICIALS ONLY

CIA No. 49784
Copy No. 38

TOP SECRET SUPPLEMENT

TO THE CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

(including S/S Cables)

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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WESTERN EUROPE

1. France now favors publicity on COCOM: The French delegate to COCOM has indicated that his government now favors "total publicity" on COCOM matters. The French Foreign Ministry has already confirmed recent press reports about the committee.

The American delegate planned to suggest at a COCOM meeting this week that some matters should not be made public. (S S/S Paris 1298, 29 Aug 52)

Comment: France has previously been the member most strongly in favor of complete secrecy, having had qualified support only from Britain. The nature of COCOM operations requires that some matters, such as quotas for particular items, be kept secret.

SOUTH ASIA

2. Indian official anticipates possible coup in Nepal by B. P. Koirala: An official in the Indian Ministry for External Affairs told an American Embassy representative on 2 September that Nepali Congress President B. P. Koirala may attempt to seize power in Nepal by force if he believes the time is right and if no other way to gain control appears possible. The official stated that:

1. The former ruling Nepali Congress Party has deteriorated, and as a result the constitutional changes in Nepal in February 1951 did not bring the stability sought there by the Indian Government.

2. The differences between the rival Nepali Congressmen, former Prime Minister M. P. Koirala and his half-brother

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B. P. Koirala, which brought about the recent cabinet break-up, are not likely to be resolved.

3. Although the King has been ineffectual, the Indian Government is depending on him and his six-man advisory council to stabilize Nepal until the elections, which may take place in two years.

The Nepalese would prefer the King's new regime to the former Nepali Congress government which accomplished nothing in its 18-month tenure.

The King plans to confer with Prime Minister Nehru in New Delhi on 4 September. (S S/S New Delhi 918, 2 Sept 52)

Comment: Differences between the Koirala brothers in the past have been adjusted, but there are indications that B. P. Koirala's ambitions to gain complete control of Nepal may keep him from compromising with Indian objectives. While it is possible that B. P. Koirala might attempt to overthrow the government in Nepal, it is unlikely that the Indian Government would allow its interests in Nepal as a northern buffer state to go by default, especially since the King would seek Indian help.

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